

Shasta County – Health & Human Services Agency

Children's Services Branch

Special Care Rate (SCR) Plan Update – ACL 18-48

1. The populations of who will be served. Please include available data that includes the caseload of the current specialized care population and estimate of any potential expanded populations to be served; list the types of behavior and/or health conditions or qualifying factors for which a specialized care rate is currently paid and/or would be paid under the updated plan. This data will be used to inform the fiscal adjustments that will be outlined in the forthcoming County Fiscal Letter.

The special care rate will only be used for County Resource Family Approved (RFA) homes when the youth/adolescent is determined to meet criteria for Level of Care (LOC) 4 and does not qualify for an Intensive Service Foster Care (ISFC) or/and IFSC home is not available. A County RFA home that is an Intensive Service Foster Care home is not eligible to also receive the special care rate.

The behavior and/or health conditions or qualifying factors being considered are when the child is placed in a County operated Resource Family home and:

- Recently transitioned out of STRTP placement; however, the child/youth's behaviors continue to require intensive care, supervision and service provisions from the resource family to successfully transition/adjust and to prevent further STRTP placement. This is exempt when a child is placed in an Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Home.
- Is at-risk of or is identified as a sex trafficked victim (CSEC) and exhibits behaviors such as recruiting, engaging in explicit photos/videos, chronic AWOL, over-sexualized behaviors, etc. which require intensive care, supervision and service provisions from the resource family. This is exempt when a child is placed in an Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Home.
- Has a terminal/progressive illness or is on hospice, and requires frequent medical treatment for end of life care.
- Is ventilator dependent or requires constant suctioning to maintain an open airway necessitating constant supervision and care and/or requires tube feeding.
- Has a severely compromised immune system which requires universal precautions including a safe and sterile environment.
- If the Child and Family Team determines the child has significant mental health/behavior management concerns that require continuous 24 hour a day supervision. Re-evaluated the need for SCR every 45 days.

Shasta County currently has approximately 25 - 30 children per month that receive a Special Care Rate. This number is expected to remain relatively stable.

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2. Payment amount.
 - SPECIALIZED CARE RATE: \$700.
3. The criteria and/or the qualifying factors and conditions used to determine the SCI rate in each level and must be clearly described; if the county is using the CWDA SCI plan, the county should reference what criteria of the CWDA SCI plan is applying to the county SCI plan.
 - The Specialized Care Rate criteria and/or qualifying factors and conditions are outlined in Question 1 above. The Case Carrying Social Worker is responsible for receiving the criteria and submitting an application to the SCR Committee for review and approval/denial.
4. The County review process and secondary review/approval, including how often the county will conduct a SCI reassessment.
 - Secondary review/approval is annually or upon a triggering event as described in the LOC protocol.
5. Provide description of what circumstances trigger an SCI assessment i.e., additional conditions or the additional care and supervision needs of the child/youth.
 - SCI assessments are most often triggered by the caregiver communicating to the Social Worker. Social Workers meet at least once a month with the caregiver, giving them multiple opportunities to communicate need.
6. Proposed implementation dates and a description of how existing families receiving SCI rates will be treated under the new SCI plan; identifying any plans for how existing SCI rates might be reduced or increased under the proposed plan.
 - Families were notified of a final approval, which occurred on 5/1/2018. The County is no longer hearing new cases and the current approved SCI will end at their twelve (12) month evaluation. Implementation of the new plan will occur upon approval by CDSS of the updated Shasta County SCR plan submitted June 30, 2018.
7. How families will be notified about the new SCI rates.
 - Families are notified by a Notice of Action form. The next renewal ends the current approved SCI plans.
8. A copy of the NOA form used for SCI approval, denial, redetermination and discontinuance which must note the SCI level authorized.

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- Refer to “Blank NOA Form” attachment. The County uses the text box to communicate changes and/or the SCI level authorized.
9. An SCI point of county contact with email, phone number and written address information.
- Rod Delfer, Foster Care Eligibility Supervisor
rdelfer@co.shasta.ca.us
(530) 229-8283
1313 Yuba St.
Redding, CA, 96001

Shasta County

SPECIALIZED CARE RATE (SCR) APPLICATION

☐ Initial Application

☐ Annual Renewal

Child's Name:

DOB:

Age:

Case Name:

Case Number:

Foster Parent's Name:

Type of Placement:

Social Worker Name:

Child's County of Residence:

Medical Information

Physician:

☐ Pathways

Visits:

☐ per Week

☐ per Month

Diagnosis:

Prognosis:

Medications:

Special Care:

Equipment/Monitors:

Physical Therapy:

Care and Supervision

Behavior:

Personal Care:

Supervision:

Placement Barriers:

Approvals

Supervisor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

☐ Specialized Care Rate is authorized


Rate = \$

Effective:

☐ Denied Reason:

Program Manager's Signature: _____

Date Authorized: _____

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Policy

The Specialized Care Rate (SCR) Program through Shasta County Children's Services Branch provides Specialized Care Increment (SCI) payments to caregivers in combination with the Level of Care (LOC) rate structure. SCI funding is available to address the behavioral, emotional and physical requirements of children/youth in care above and beyond what is already covered in the LOC rate structure.

The SCR Program is designed to:


- Ensure each child who is determined to meet criteria for LOC 4 and does not qualify for Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) or/and IFSC home is not available, may receive SCI funding that accurately aligns with the LOC Protocol.
- Allow children to be placed in the least restrictive level of care possible.
- Promote placement stability and ensure quality care.

One of more of the following eligibility conditions must be met for SCR when the child/youth:

- Recently transitioned out of Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) placement; however, the child/youth's behaviors continue to require intensive care, supervision and service provisions from the resource family to successfully transition/adjust and to prevent further STRTP placement. This is exempt when a child is placed in an Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Home.
- Is at-risk of or is identified as a sex trafficked victim (CSEC) and exhibits behaviors such as recruiting, engaging in explicit photos/videos, chronic AWOL, over-sexualized behaviors, etc. which require intensive care, supervision and service provisions from the resource family. This is exempt when a child is placed in an ISFC Home.
- Has a terminal/progressive illness or is on hospice, and requires frequent medical treatment for end of life care.
- Is ventilator dependent or requires constant suctioning to maintain an open airway necessitating constant supervision and care and/or requires tube feeding.
- Has a severely compromised immune system which requires universal precautions including a safe and sterile environment.
- If the Child and Family Team (CFT) determines the child has significant mental health/behavior management concerns that require continuous 24 hour a day supervision, the need for SCI will be re-evaluated every 45 days.

Initial SCI assessment will occur after the LOC assessment. An SCI assessment is completed when:

- The social worker determines the level of care and supervision the child requires exceeds the established LOC rate, or

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- Whenever a caregiver makes a request.

SCI shall be re-determined at an annual 12-month reassessment or when:

- The child moves from one placement to another.
- The child has a LOC triggering event.
- The child's care and supervision needs appear to have changed.

Shasta County's current eligible types of caregivers include:

- RFA Approved Homes
- County Licensed Homes pending conversion to RFA
- Relative/NFERM Homes
- RFA Emergency Caregiver and RFA Pending Approval Homes
- AAP Homes
- KinGap Homes
- Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Homes

Procedure

Social Worker	1	Complete the Specialized Rate Increase (SCI) Application with the caregiver.
	2	Send the completed SCI Application to SCR Committee for review.
SCR Committee	3	Determine approval or denial.
	4	Send to SCI Application to Social Worker Supervisor.
Social Worker Supervisor	5	<p>If SCR Committee recommends approval of the SCI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign and date SCI Application. • Fill in the authorized dollar amount and the effective date of the SCI. • Forward SCI Application to Program Manager. <p>IF SCR Committee recommends denial of the SCI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the "Denied" box on the SCI Application and complete the Reason for the Denial. • Forward the SCI Application to Program Manager.
	6	Review the SCI Application.
Program Manager	7	Sign, date and forward SCI Application to Placement Clerk.
	8	Review SCI Application and enter information into CWS/CMS.
Placement Clerk	9	Send original document to SW to file in the child's case file.
	10	Send a copy to Eligibility.
Eligibility	11	Image approved SCR Application and save in C-IV.

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	12	Provide a Notice of Action (NOA) explaining reasons for approval, denial, and any rate change. NOAs shall be issued in the event of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rate increase. • A rate decrease. • A rate discontinuance. • A request for a rate change is denied.
	13	Maintain an image of the NOA in C-IV.
	14	Schedule secondary review/approval for SCI every twelve (12) months.
	15	Special cases, such as infants, reported changes in health, etc. shall be reconsidered at three (3) months and six (6) months.
	Social Worker	

NOTICE OF ACTION

Case Name: _____
Case Number: _____
Office Hours: _____
TDD - For Hearing Impaired: _____

Questions? Ask your Worker

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how.

As of _____ the County has approved
your Special Care Increment

Budget Calculation:

Here's why:

The Special Care Rate Committee has recommended a Special Care Increment (SCI) of \$_____, based on the special care rate program for _____ County. The SCI level is _____.

The SCI is for behavioral, emotional and /or physical (including health) needs that require additional care and supervision above the Level of Care (LOC).

If you disagree with the county's decision, you may gather more information and/or documentation and discuss with your Social worker. You have the option to attend the Special Care Rate Committee meeting and speak to the committee.

Rules: These rules apply. You may review them at your welfare office:
EASs 11-401.2, 45-302.431(a)

NA 100 (05/2003)

C-IV NA 100 CIV

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NOTICE OF ACTION

Case Number: _____

Office Hours: _____

TDD - For Hearing Impaired: _____

Questions? Ask your Worker

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how.

As of _____ the County has decrease
your Special Care Increment.

Budget Calculation:

Here's why:

A redetermination has recently been completed. The Special Care Rate Committee has recommended a Special Care Increment (SCI) of \$_____, based on the special care rate program for _____ County. The new SCI level is _____.

The SCI is for behavioral, emotional and /or physical (including health) needs that require additional care and supervision above the Level of Care (LOC).

If you disagree with the county's decision, you may gather more information and/or documentation and discuss with your Social worker. You have the option to attend the Special Care Rate Committee meeting and speak to the committee.

Rules: These rules apply. You may review them at your welfare office:

EASs 11-401.2, 45-302.431(a)



NOTICE OF ACTION

Case Name: _____
Case Number: _____
Office Hours: _____
TDD - For Hearing Impaired: _____

Questions? Ask your Worker

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how.

As of _____ the County has denied
your request for a Special Care Increment

Budget Calculation:

Here's why:

The Special Care Rate Committee did not recommend a
Special Care Increment (SCI) base on the special care rate
program for _____ County.

The SCI was denied because the child/youth does not met
the program requirements.

If you disagree with the county's decision, you may gather
more information and/or documentation and discuss with your
Social worker. You have the option to attend the Special
Care Rate Committee meeting and speak to the committee.

Rules: These rules apply. You may review them at your welfare office:
EASs 11-401.2, 45-302.431(a)

NA 100 (05/2003)

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C-IV NA 100 CIV



NOTICE OF ACTION

Case Number: _____

Office Hours: _____

TDD - For Hearing Impaired: _____

Questions? Ask your Worker

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how.

As of _____ the County has discontinued
your Special Care Increment

Budget Calculation:

Here's why:

_____ is no longer eligible to
receive a Specialized Care Increment.

0 The SCI certification period has expired. A new SCI will
need to be reviewed by the Special Care Rate Committee,
please contact your Social Worker.

0 The Special Care Rate Committee did not recommend a
new SCI certification period. The child/youth no longer meets
the SCI requirements for the special care rate program for
_____ County.

If you disagree with the county's decision, you may gather
more information and/or documentation and discuss with your
Social worker. You have the option to attend the Special
Care Rate Committee meeting and speak to the committee.

Rules: These rules apply. You may review them at your welfare office:

EASs 11-401.2, 45-302.431(a)

